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# EAST TIMOR: TEN YEARS ON AND STILL NO SETTLEMENT

## Petition to His Excellency Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations

We, the undersigned, wish to add our voices to those calling for talks to end the conflict in East Timor.

This November marks ten years since the UN General Assembly resolved on 3 November 1982 'to consult with all parties directly concerned, with a view to... achieving a comprehensive settlement of the problem'.

Over this period, there has been no substantial progress towards a settlement of this question. The Dili massacre and many other abuses since 1982 demonstrate that deep conflict continues and the East Timorese people still do not enjoy even basic freedoms.

The East Timorese people, a party 'directly concerned', are offering to talk without preconditions under UN auspices.

This constructive offer comes at a time of renewed international concern over the issue, dramatic advances in conflict-resolution in many parts of the world, and enhanced authority for the UN.

It is time for the UN to act. It is time for the UN to uphold universal principles and apply them without fear or favour in respect of East Timor.

As Secretary-General, we strongly urge you to facilitate talks on the issue involving all parties, including the East Timorese resistance, Indonesia, and Portugal. It is time to listen to the East Timorese. It is time for talks.

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***Forward direct to:***
***H.E. Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General, United Nations, UN Plaza, New York NY 10017. USA.***